

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08

INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 L-03 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00

MC-02 IGA-02 /136 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ NE: EWFLEISHER: SMW

3/22/73 EXT. 29451

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. STOESSEL

EUR/ NE - MR. GEORGE

AID - MR. G. BEAUCHAMP

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R 231627 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053790

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS IC

SUBJECT: VOLCANO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0304

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR KROYER SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ANY REQUEST AND BECAUSE OF INTEREST SHOWN BY SECRETARY AND USG IN ASSISTING WESTMANN ISLANDERS, HE WISHED TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER US ASSISTANCE.

2. KROYER SAID ICELANDERS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US COAST GUARD AND WOULD LIKE TO LEASE A CUTTER OF ABOUT 1100 TONS WHICH THEY UNDERSTAND THE COAST GUARD PLANS TO RETIRE FROM SERVICE. GOI WOULD USE CUTTER TO STAND BY OFF WESTMANN
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ISLANDS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF DURING HEIGHT OF FISHING SEASON WHEN REGULAR ICELANDIC CUTTERS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH FISHERY PROBLEMS.

3. KROYER SAID HE ALSO WISHED TO EXPRESS DESIRE OF WESTMANN ISLANDERS (NOTE NOT GOI) FOR US EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT LAVA FLOW. ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$400,000 WAS MORE THAN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FELT COULD BE SPENT FOR ATTEMPT TO STOP LAVA WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN TRIED BEFORE AND IS REGARDED AS AN EXPERIMENT. KROYER SAID A DELEGATION OF THREE ICELANDERS WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNING TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO EXAMINE EQUIPMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO COME HERE BUT HE WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER DELEGATION MIGHT BE GOING TO NEW YORK OR SOME OTHER DESTINATION IN US.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL SAID WE WOULD STUDY QUESTION OF COAST GUARD CUTTER AND THAT THE MATTER OF FINANCING OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT WAS UNDER REVIEW. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE053790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EWFLEISHER: SMW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730338/aaaaihnz.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 REYKJAVIK 0304
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971229
Subject: VOLCANO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, IC
To: REYKJAVIK INFO CINCLANT
COMICEDEFOR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005